

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 17-19, 23, 24 and 26 stand rejected while claims 2-8, 20 and 21 stand objected to. Independent claims 1, 15, 23 and 26 have been amended herein. Therefore, claims 1-10, 15, 17-21, 23, 24 and 26 are pending and at issue. Applicants are submitting herewith a Request for Continued Examination as the present Amendment is in response to a Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration rejections in view of the following arguments and amendments.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to thank Examiner McPartlin for discussing the present application and potential amendments to the claims in view of the cited art. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with this discussion, whereby the independent claims have been amended to recite front and rear support bars, each having a respective fastener/clamping device and such that the front and rear support bars are adjustable to vary the spacing of the front and rear clamping devices. As discussed with the Examiner, these amendments clearly distinguish the present claims over the cited art.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-8, 20 and 21 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. However, Applicants have not done so as they believe the claims from which the objected claims depend, are allowable as presented herein.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 23, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reminger in view of Berger. This rejection should be withdrawn as the proposed combination fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited in the claims, as amended.

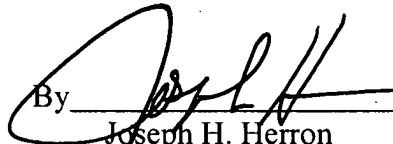
As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interview, the proposed combination of references, including when each reference is taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest front and rear support bars, each having a respective fastener/clamping device and such that the front and rear support bars are adjustable to vary the spacing of the front and rear clamping devices, in combination with the other elements recited in the claims. In view of the above, the rejection of claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 23, 24 and 26 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Reminger in view of Berger and further in view of Jefferson. (The Examiner is respectfully requested to clarify that the rejection is being made for obviousness (§ 103) and not anticipation (§ 102) as indicated in the Office Action). As discussed above, the combination of Reminger and Berger, when each considered alone or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest one or more features recited in the claims. Jefferson similarly fails to overcome these deficiencies. Therefore, this rejection should also be withdrawn and claims 17-19 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of the claims and allowance of the case. The Patent Office is authorized to deduct any fees from Deposit Account No. 19-1351 as required. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (57375-400100) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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On June 11, 2008, the undersigned attorney conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Sarah B. McPartlin. This is to state that the undersigned attorney is in agreement with the Examiner's Interview Summary.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner McPartlin for her time in discussing the proposed amendments on June 11, 2008.

Should any formalities remain which can be addressed by Examiner's Amendment, Applicant requests that the undersigned attorney can be contacted in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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